

Remarks

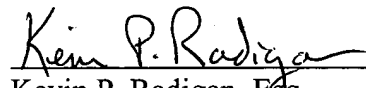
In the Office Action, restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-19, 27-45, 53 and 55-73, drawn to a constant bit rate encoder that uses frequency domain pixel data, classified in class 375, subclass 240.21.
- II. Claims 20-26, 46-52 and 54, drawn to a multiple orientation block encoder, classified in class 375, subclass 240.24.

In response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-19, 27-45, 53 and 55-73 for prosecution at this time. This election to prosecute claims is submitted in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §121 and is made without prejudice to the Group II claims 20-26, 46-52 and 54.

Action on the merits of claims 1-19, 27-45, 53 and 55-73 and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin P. Radigan, Esq.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No.: 31,789

Dated: March 25, 2004.

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.  
5 Columbia Circle  
Albany, New York 12203-5160  
Telephone: (518) 452-5600  
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579